

[View this email in your browser](#)



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

The President, Professor Ross Large AO, and Council of The Royal Society of Tasmania wish all members a very joyous and safe Festive Season and hope that 2020 will be pleasurable and fulfilling.



Membership Reminder: For those who haven't done so, don't forget to renew your Royal Society of Tasmania subscription for 2020. (Note: The RST membership year is a calendar year from 1 Jan – 30 Dec.) Click here to open the renewal form on our web site which can be downloaded as a pdf for filling in electronically.



2020 Dates for your Diary

The Society's Council has decided to trial a **Sunday afternoon lecture time** for all of the Hobart meetings in 2020. Council has received feedback that this may be more convenient for many members.

The program will start with the AGM on **Sunday 1 March 2020** at 3 pm. The location for the **AGM only** will be **The Old Woolstore Hotel lecture theatre, 1 Macquarie Street.**

The speaker following the AGM will be Prof. Jean-Philippe Beaulieu: *The Secret Garden at Recherche Bay – 1792.*

After the initial March meeting, the lecture program will **continue on the first Sunday afternoon of each month until November in the Royal Society Room, Customs House Building, TMAG.**

The first half of the year's program has been set:

Sunday 5th April: Susannah Fullerton: *Dr Johnson and his dictionary.* (The idea of a decent dictionary was first mooted by the Royal Society.)

Sunday 3rd May: Laura Black: *A botanical artist's journey.*

Sunday 7th June: Dr Geoff While: *The social lives of lizard.*

The 2020 Christmas lecture and dinner will still be held on the first Tuesday evening in December.

Towards the end of 2020, this decision will be reviewed and feedback from members will be sought.

In the meantime, please ensure that you put **Sunday 1 March 2020 at 3pm** in your 2020 diary today for the first Society meeting and AGM. We look forward to seeing you at the new location.



Sprinkle Some Sparkle with these Christmas Specials

The Publications Committee has reduced the price of the following books as a special for the Christmas period. Get in quickly to take advantage of this great offer.

- ***The Library at the End of the World*** now priced at \$55 hardcover and \$35 softcover.
- ***Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly*** (- see more details of this in this Newsletter in the blue box far below) now reduced to \$60 hardcover and \$40 softcover.

Order online for quick purchasing and to view the wide range of other gift 'treasures' from the Society: [Visit all Society products](#)

What lovely gifts books, cards and calendars from The Royal Society of Tasmania make as treats for family and friends.



Royal Society of Tasmania 2019 Awards

On behalf of the Council, the President has pleasure in announcing the recipients of the Royal Society of Tasmania Awards for 2019. This year, two medals were available for nomination, the Clive Lord Medal and the M. R. Banks Medal and, as usual, the Annual Doctoral Awards were available.

The winners are as follows:

- **Clive Lord Medal:** Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick.
- **M. R. Banks Medal:** Associate Professor Arko Lucieer and Dr Eloise Foo.
- **Annual Doctoral Awards:** Dr Indrani Mukherjee and Dr Jessica Ericson.





The Royal Society of Tasmania Library receives significant donation of Antarctic literature

As a 12-year-old boy living in Malaya, Gordon Bain, was intrigued by the harsh, wild and mysterious place called Antarctica. It was another 32 years before his dreams were fulfilled when Gordon voyaged south 12 times by ship, working with the Australian Antarctic Division, to the place that had existed only in his imagination. Gordon has been collecting and reading Antarctic literature for most of his life, where the narratives of science, heroism and quests are played out. He has now donated the collection which totals over 750 fiction and non-fiction books to the Society's Library. (See picture top left of Gordon Bain delivering one of the many boxes from his collection. At right, Gordon is seen at his computer on a ship journeying to the Antarctic.)



UTAS Professor Elizabeth Leane, a specialist in Antarctic fiction and the role that humanities as well as science plays in Antarctic research, is delighted with the donation:

Gordon Bain's very generous donation means that researchers will have access to one of the largest library collections of Antarctic fiction in the world. This will be a fantastic resource for academics and postgraduate researchers interested in the literary and popular representations of Antarctica.

Antarctica is a place that very few people experience directly, so analysing the imaginative stories we tell about it is an important part of understanding our relationship with the continent.

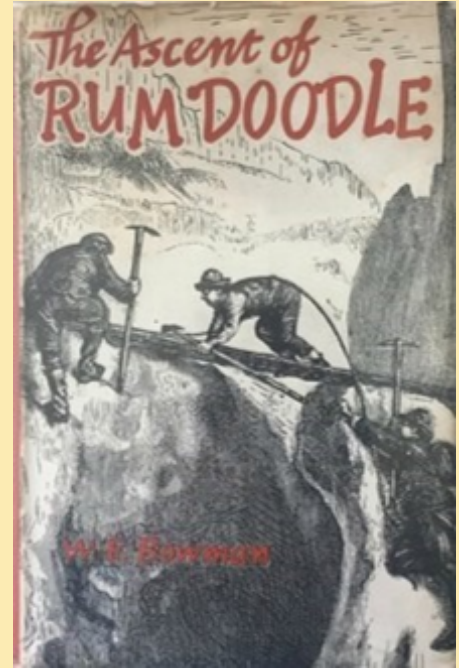


Juliet Beale, the Honorary Librarian for the Collection and senior staff member at UTAS Library, says "the value in collections such as these is that researchers can see the entirety and range of the collection at once. There are some unusual and rare

titles in the collection as well as popular titles and having them all together in a print collection highlights the breadth and depth of literature on Antarctica."

As part of a longstanding agreement between the University and the Society, UTAS Library houses, manages, conserves and provides access to the Society's library collection for all members.

The Gordon Bain collection will be housed on Level 5 of the Morris Miller Library with the University's [Special and Rare Collections](#).



Maria Lord: convict to governor's lady

This year's Christmas lecture was delivered by Dr Alison Alexander (pictured right). Alison is a seventh-generation Australian, with convict ancestors in the first, second and third fleet. She was formerly a lecturer in history at the University of Tasmania, and is the editor of *The Companion to Tasmanian History* and the author of *The Ambitions of Jane Franklin*. She was awarded the 2014 Australian National Biography Award for *The ambitions of Jane Franklin: Victorian lady adventurer, a biography of Jane Franklin*.



From her 1986 book, *Governors ladies*, Dr Alexander recounted the fascinating story of the naval officer Edward Lord and the convict Maria Riseley, who made a fortune in early Hobart Town by their cunning business and networking skills – only to lose it in the 1820s by Edward's extravagance and financial

incompetence.

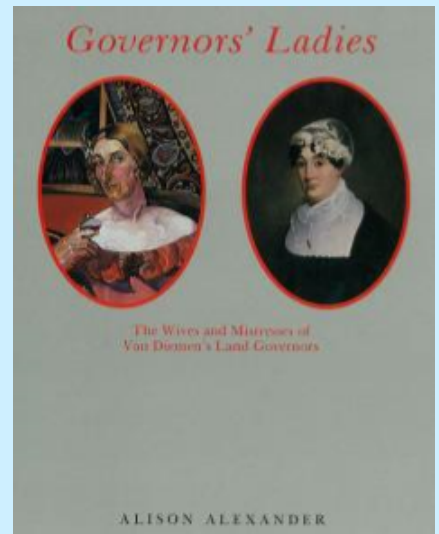


Born to illiterate parents in 1778, Maria was the eldest of 10. Tried in 1802 at Surrey Assizes for stealing from a dwelling, Maria was transported for seven years, reaching Sydney in the *Experiment* on 24 June 1804. While working in the Female Factory at Parramatta, Edward Lord chose Maria from a line-up of women to be his servant. Although no illustrations of Maria exist, a portrait of Edward is seen left.

Thus, began the fascinating story of one of Tasmania's most successful business women.

“What stories of immorality and corruption I uncovered researching and writing this book! The most popular book I have written.”

Read the full account in Alison's book *Governors' Ladies*.



Congratulations, Dr Greg Lehman!



The Royal Society of Tasmania extends warm congratulations to Council member and Co-Chair of the Society's Aboriginal Engagement Committee, Dr Greg Lehman, who has been appointed by the University of Tasmania as the new Pro Vice-Chancellor – Aboriginal Leadership. He will take up the position from 13 January 2020.

Dr Lehman is currently a McKenzie Post-Doctoral Fellow at the School of Culture and Communication, University of Melbourne. Descended from the Trawulwuy people of the North East, he is an award-winning curator and writer. His creative and scholarly works explore the impact of colonisation on Tasmania's

social fabric and Aboriginal contributions to Tasmania's environmental history and sense of place.



2020 Calendar – OUT NOW!

Penguins and sea birds of Antarctica: the illustrations of Edward Adrian Wilson (1872–1912), artist on the Robert Falcon Scott expeditions to the south.

The Royal Society of Tasmania 2020 Calendar is now available for purchase. A beautiful gift for any occasion. The calendar can be purchased at our online shop, by postal order or directly from the Royal Society Rooms.

If you purchase directly from the Royal Society rooms, the price is \$18.00 – open Wednesday mornings at 19 Davey St (opp. Constitution Dock).

Retail price: \$19.95 – click here to go to our [online shop](#).

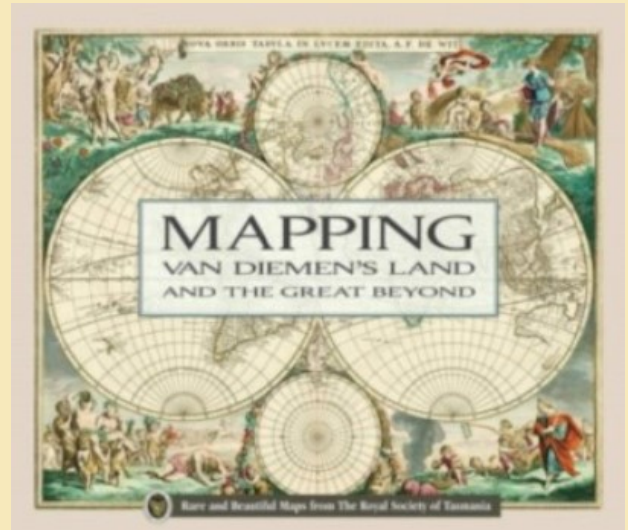
Or order by post for \$24.00 per copy (including handling and postage within Australia).

Download the Order Form here: [2020 Calendar Order Form](#)

Recent Royal Society of Tasmania Publications

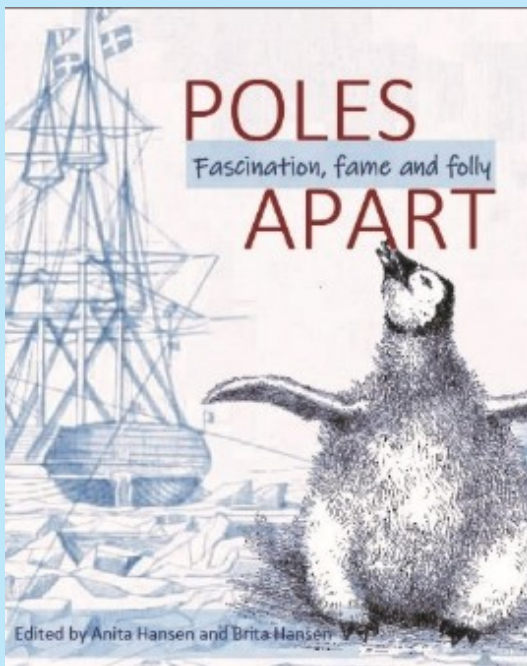
Why not consider these as gifts for Christmas?

The first book published in 2018 by The Royal Society of Tasmania to celebrate its 175th Anniversary year was ***Mapping Van Diemen's Land and the Great Beyond***, edited by Lynn Davies, Margaret Davies and Warren Boyles.



This highly informative volume contains over 100 high resolution images of rare and beautiful maps from the Society's Rare Book Collection with interpretive text from a range of authoritative contributors. This beautiful book is a 'must' for everyone's personal library. Available in hardcover for \$65 or soft cover \$45.

Purchase your copy of 'Mapping Van Diemen's Land and the Great Beyond' now.



The second book published as part of the Society's 175th Anniversary celebrations is ***Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly*** edited by Dr Anita Hansen and Dr Brita Hansen and is based on the Society's Rare Books Collection.

The last two frontiers on Earth, the Antarctic and the Arctic, are the stuff of heroes, heartache, courage, mystery, misery, endurance and loss. All these and more are captured in the pages of *Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly*. This wonderful book lays out, in a series of snapshots, mankind's incredible persistent battle in both taming and

understanding our amazing icy wilderness.

Both hard and soft cover versions are available and can be obtained from the [Society's website](#) and from bookshops. The 1000 hardcover copies are numbered and signed by the editors.

Christmas Special: For this Christmas, the hardcover version is reduced to \$60.00 and the soft cover version is down to \$40.00. **Ensure that a copy of this exciting book finds its way to your bookshelf or give copies as superb gifts!**

REVISED POLES APART INDEX

A number of errors have unfortunately been found in the index to our recent book *Poles Apart: Fascination, fame and folly*. A revised index is now available. A printed version is available free of charge to purchasers of the book and can be collected from the RST office on Wednesday mornings or at any of our lectures. Alternatively, a printed copy can be mailed out or pdf can be provided by email by contacting the office: Royal.Society@tmag.tas.gov.au

Purchase 'Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly' now.

Save the Date

Hobart March 2020 Event

All welcome: Members and friends are invited to attend the AGM and meeting to be held at the location, new time and day on **Sunday 1 March 2020 at 3 pm** at The Old Woolstore Hotel lecture theatre, 1 Macquarie Street. The presenter will be **Prof. Jean-Philippe Beaulieu: *The Secret Garden at Recherche Bay, 1792.***

The Northern Branch

The first 2020 meeting for the Northern Branch will be on **Sunday 23 February 2020** at 1.30 pm. **Ngaire Hobbins** will talk on ***Live it up: eating to stay active, engaged and independent as you age.***

Open to the general public. Admission is free for members of the Royal Society of Tasmania; \$6 for general admission; \$4 for students, QVMAG Friends and the Launceston Historical Society.

[Meeting Room, Inveresk QVMAG](#)



The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) is open Tuesdays to Sundays between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm from 1 April until 24 December.


TMAG is also open from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm on Monday public holidays year-round.

The museum is closed Good Friday, Anzac Day (25 April) and Christmas Day.

[TMAG What's On - calendar of events.](#)

 F O L L O W on T W I T T E R @RoyalSocTas

 F O L L O W on F A C E B O O K RoyalSocietyTas

 V I S I T the W E B S I T E

 F O R W A R D to a F R I E N D RoyalSocTas newsletter

Click here and scroll down to the PayPal DONATE button on our website's home page. Thank you for your support!

Copyright © 2018 The Royal Society of Tasmania, All rights reserved.

ABN 65 889 598 100

Our mailing address is:

GPO Box 1166
Hobart TAS 7001

Our office location is:

19 Davey Street
Hobart TAS 7000

Office hours: Wednesdays 9.00 am - 12.00 pm
+61 3 6165 7014

Thank you for reading!

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to a.m.ryan@utas.edu.au
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
The Royal Society of Tasmania · 19 Davey Street · Hobart, Tas 7000 · Australia

